

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 MC-02 AID-20 ABF-01 ACDA-19 IGA-02

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 EB-11 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /134 W

----- 043390

R 091100Z JUL 73 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7082

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2421

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJECT: MINDEF ON KUWAIT ARMS PURCHASES

REF: (A) STATE 131977 (B) KUWAIT 2341 (C) KUWAIT 1187

1. FOLLOWING PASSAGE BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY JULY 3 OF  
\$1.4 BILLION BUDGET REQUEST, MINDEF SHAIKH SAAD SPOKE  
TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON GOK MILITARY AND DEFENSE POLICY  
AT LEGISLATURE'S CLOSING SESSION JULY 4. HE ALSO  
ANSWERED PRESS QUERIES. THERE NO OFFICIAL TEXT BUT  
PRESS QUOTES MINDEF AS FOLLOWS REGARDING MILITARY  
PURCHASES.

2. DAILY AL-RAI AL-AAM HAD FOLLOWING QUOTE: Q: WILL  
WE HAVE FREEDOM TO USE THESE ARMS AND DEAL WITH THEM  
AS GOVERNMENT WISHES OR WILL THEIR USE BE SUBJECT TO  
CONDITIONS? A:  
WHENEVER WE BUY ARMS FROM ANY SOURCE  
WHATEVER, WE ARE  
FREE, IN EVERY SENSE OF THAT WORD, IN  
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THE USE OF THOSE ARMS, AT ANY TIME AND PLACE -- AND WE

WILL NOT ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF PRECONDITIONS AT ALL.  
THAT MUST BE KNOWN. UNQUOTE (EMBASSY TRANSLATION)  
DAILY NEWS SAID "HE (SAAD) ALSO AFFIRMED THAT ARMS WOULD  
BE ONLY PURCHASED FROM SOURCES NOT ATTACHING STRINGS OR  
CONDITIONS TO THEM". OTHER PAPERS MENTIONED "WE WILL  
NOT PERMIT ANY CONDITIONS TO BE IMPOSED UPON US."

3. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER REPORTS, SAAD ALSO STRESSED  
THAT GOK WOULD BUY MODERN WEAPONS, ESPECIALLY FOR AIR  
DEFENSE FROM FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND HE "CATEGORICALLY  
REFUSED" DEALING THROUGH AGENTS OR DEALERS. GROUPS OF  
YOUNG KUWAITIS WOULD BE SENT ABROAD FOR TRAINING IN  
MODERN WARFARE. KUWAIT WANTED STRENGTHEN ITS NAVY AND  
WILL BUY FAST BOATS EQUIPPED WITH GUNS AND MISSILES.  
SAAD ALSO MENTIONED PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT MILITARY  
COLLEGE AND CONSCRIPTION RECENTLY APPROVED BY COUNCIL  
OF MINISTERS.

4. AT MEETING WITH MINDEF JULY 7 ON ANOTHER MATTER, I  
RAISED POINT RE CONDITIONS AND REMINDED HIM OF STANDARD  
US REQUIREMENTS REGARDING TRANSFER US EQUIPMENT TO THIRD  
COUNTRIES. HE REPLIED THAT HE COMPLETELY UNDERSTOOD  
AND GOK ACCEPTED THESE REQUIREMENTS.

5. COMMENT: I BELIEVE WE CAN TAKE MINDEF AT HIS WORD  
AND THAT GOK HAS NO RPT NO INTENTION OF DISPOSING OF  
ANY ARMS ACQUIRED FROM US TO THIRD PARTIES WITHOUT OUR  
OK. RE PARA TWO REFTEL, BELIEVE THAT SINCE FRENCH ARE  
BY NO MEANS THE ONLY OPPONENTS OF US ARMS TO KUWAIT,  
THERE IS NO REASON BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE NECESSARILY  
ORIGIN OF THE INTERPRETATION OF KUWAIT MINDEF'S REMARKS  
AS APPLYING TO TRANSFERS TO THIRD PARTIES WITHOUT US  
PERMISSION. END COMMENT.

6. SOME LOCAL PAPERS HAVE STRESSED GOK INTEREST IN  
NAVAL EXPANSION. WHILE GOK HAS NOT APPROACHED US  
RECENTLY WISH REMIND DEPT. THAT IN APRIL EMBOFFS WERE  
TOLD GOK WILL WANT DISCUSS NAVAL EXPANSION AT POINT.  
(REF C PARA 4)  
STOLTZFUS  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 09 JUL 1973  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS STOLTZFUS  
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**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** MASS, KU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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